

NOTES AND MEMORANDA

ELECTIONS TO THE SOCIETY

THE following have been elected Fellows (starred) and Members of the *Eugenics Society* during the past quarter :

E. Austin Hinton, Esq., B.A., F.L.A.	*E. A. Ofenheim, Esq., M.D., Phil.D., M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
*Kenneth Holland, Esq.	Professor T. L. Ride.
Lt.-Col. G. E. Malcom- son, I.M.S. (Rtd.).	Captain A. F. Sinclair.

The Annual Meeting

THE Annual General Meeting of the *Society* was held on May 15th at the rooms of the Royal Society, with Mr. B. S. Bramwell (in the President's absence) in the chair. Following the election of the honorary officers and Council (of whom a list is published elsewhere in this issue) the meeting unanimously adopted the Annual Report, and expressed its approval of the skill with which the treasurer had handled the *Society's* finances. At the close of the proceedings the Honourable Mrs. Grant Duff and Mrs. C. B. S. Hodson gave short accounts of recent developments in the eugenics movement in Germany, which they had had an opportunity of observing as visitors to the Exhibition of "The German People : German Work," in Berlin.

C. P. B.

Policy of the Eugenics Society

SEVERAL days before the meeting Fellows and Members received (together with the Annual Report) a completely revised version of the *Society's* Outline of Policy, under the title *The Aims and Objects of the Eugenics Society*. This statement, to the preparation of which the Council and General Purposes Committee of the *Society* devoted considerable time and thought, falls into three parts: (1) a preamble on the moral and scientific bases of eugenics ; (2) a statement of matters in connection with human heredity and differential fertility which need further investigation ; and (3) a short account of eugenics practice, through measures designed to diminish the fertility of sub-average

persons and to promote the fertility of persons of sound stock. For the propaganda of eugenics, particularly for informing the public as briefly yet as authoritatively as possible what exactly are the ideas that guide and the purposes of this *Society*, such a document is of paramount importance, and it may be hoped that Fellows and Members will make the fullest use of it. We hope, also, that the issues it raises will be discussed fully in the correspondence columns of this REVIEW. It is printed in full on page 133.

C. P. B.

Eugenics in Practice

AN eloquent testimony to the interest kindled in medical circles by the Brock Report is afforded by a series of anonymous articles under the above heading, which are now appearing in *The Lancet*. The series began on May 12th with an article entitled "Mental Defect in the Community: Is it increasing?" and in subsequent weeks further articles have appeared on the following subjects: "The Social Problem Group," "The Inheritance of Mental Defect," "The Californian Experience," "Segregation or Sterilization?" "The Technique of Sterilization," "The Political Outlook." The articles have dealt with most of the important aspects of the Brock Report, and taken together constitute a most valuable contribution to the subject. It is hoped that the Editor of *The Lancet* will see his way to making these articles available for the general public in collected form.

C. P. B.

International Eugenics Conference

THE biennial Assembly of the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations will be held in Zürich from July 8th to 21st. Following the Presidential address by Professor Ernst Rüdin, of Munich, on "Racial Psychiatry: a Scheme for Topographical Research in Europe," there will be discussions on, among other subjects, the assessment of oligophrenia, the measurement of psycho-

logical faculty as shown in musical ability (opener, Dr. Mjøen), mental measurement in relation to diagnosis of temperamental type, methods of distinguishing monozygotic and dizygotic twins (opener, Professor Freiherr von Verschuer), the mental and temperamental characters of monozygotic twins (opener, Professor Fetscher), the future of eugenics from an international standpoint, (opener, Dr. G. P. Frets), the aims and practical working of the German Eugenic Law (Professor Ernst Rüdin), and on the value of establishing a central clearing-house of information on the subject of human heredity. In the discussion on the German law, there will be a contribution by one of the Public Health Officers of the Reich on the questionnaire now used in Germany for assessing intelligence grade.

Anthropological Congress in London

OF hardly less interest to eugenists is the first International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, which will be held at University College, London, from July 30th to August 4th. The work of this Congress, which is designed to include all departments of research which contribute to the scientific study of man, in their application to races, people and modes of life, will be distributed in the following sections, the chairman's name following in each case in parenthesis: anatomy and physical anthropology (Professor G. Elliot Smith); psychology (Professor F. C. Bartlett); demography and population problems (Professor C. B. Fawcett); ethnography (Dr. A. C. Haddon); technology (Mr. H. Balfour); sociology (Professor C. G. Seligman); religion (Professor E. O. James); language and writing (Dr. A. H. Gardiner).

From the subjects for discussion in a very full programme, the following are selected as having direct eugenic importance: anthropological aspects of blood grouping, comparative anatomy of the brain, diathesis in relation to physical anthropometry, causes of depopulation in various areas, the menstrual cycle in man and primates (in the section of Anatomy and Physical Anthropology); methods of investigating the

mental aptitudes of African people, psychological problems arising from the contact of races (in the section of Psychology); the technique of census-taking, changes in numbers of populations, relations of racial characteristics to internal distributions within populations (in the section of Demography and Population Problems).

It is intended that there shall be a certain amount of overlapping between the two conferences, the work of the Standardization Committee in Anthropometry, started at Zürich, being planned to continue at the Congress in London. The International Federation of Eugenic Organizations expresses the hope that as many of its members as possible will attend the London meeting in order to bring about the closest intellectual association between eugenists and workers in the field of anthropology.

New Pamphlets

A REPORT of the speech on sterilization, delivered by Mr. Hugh Molson in the House of Commons on February 28th, and published in the April issue of the REVIEW (page 47), is now available as a pamphlet, under the title *What is Sterilization?* Another useful publication to which we would draw attention is a re-issue by this *Society* (with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office) of the Brock Report, less the appendices, in a well-got-up and pleasantly printed volume, to which Lord Horder has contributed a preface. Both publications are obtainable direct from the *Society*, the former at 1d., the latter at 6d. a copy.

What's in a Name?

IN response to several requests from readers of this REVIEW we place on record the fact that the *Eugenics Society* has no connection with "The Eugenics Publishing Company." This American organization has lately been offering for sale in this country, by means of circulars sent through the post, books about sex, which are "frank" and "plain in their language," and—need we add?—"ignore no details." Also they are "courageous" and "*must* be read." After all, there is no copyright in the name "eugenics."

Dr. Maria Anna Van Herwerden

THERE are a number of eugenists in England who have shared with their colleagues in Europe and America grief at the loss of Dr. Maria Anna Van Herwerden. She was a distinguished biologist, and prominent in eugenic endeavour by reason of her honest and disinterested enthusiasm. It is, however, striking that in the notices which have appeared, the personal element predominates and gives evidence of the great affection which her charming personality evoked. That she accomplished much both in her own country and in the international field is fairly well known; it is not, however, generally recognized that on the artistic side she has left many unique drawings expressing the poetical and imaginative bent of her versatile mind. Her "Letters from America"

which have been preserved in a Dutch journal, will give delight to any biologist interested in the human and semi-historical aspects of these studies. They are little known, but reveal the wide range of knowledge and the acute powers of observation as well as the lofty outlook of the writer, more than do the restrained and balanced writings on eugenics familiar to so many of us. Her untiring propaganda work did much to bring eugenics in Holland to the prominence it holds—uniting in the newly founded Institute biologists and medical men, statisticians and anthropologists with sociologists and educators. It is a model of co-operation and unity which should inspire workers in any and every country where eugenics spreads.

C. B. S. HODSON.



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Edited by C. P. BLACKER, M.C., M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.
General Secretary of the EUGENICS SOCIETY

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